



Indiana Professional Standards Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Executive Committee, Indiana Professional Standards Board
FROM: Marie Theobald, Executive Director
Judy Miller, Director of Assessment
DATE: March 19, 2003
RE: Testing Requirements for Early Adolescence

The implementation of the *Framework for Initial Licensure of Professional Educators in the State of Indiana* creates a need to reexamine the testing requirements for licensure at the Early Adolescence Developmental Level. As reported in the framework, The Generalist: Early Adolescence requires that the holder select from two of the four content fields (Science, Social Studies, Mathematics and English Language Arts). The qualifying scores for our currently adopted tests were for individuals who are prepared in a single content area at the secondary level. The Educational Testing Service does have tests specifically designed for these Middle School Content Areas.

The requirements for the non-generalist license, which permits licensing at the middle school with a single content area also present a problem. According to our current testing pattern, these teachers would take the same Praxis II content area test as those candidates licensed for the high school setting, even though their preparation is not required to be as extensive. For example, an individual who obtains the Early Adolescence Social Studies license is only expected to meet one content area, while the high school license requires three areas to be met. This raises the question as to which testing requirements should be imposed in order to make the requirements equitable.

A third issue involves the license additions. If a person is prepared at a given content and developmental level and receives that license and then adds the higher developmental level, they should be required to also demonstrate the content knowledge at the higher level.

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) The middle school content area tests be adopted for the Early Adolescence Generalist License.
- 2) Individuals who hold a single content area license for the Early Adolescence developmental level be given the option of passing the middle school content area test, if available. If no middle school test is available, these individuals should take the Praxis II content area test.
- 3) Individuals who move to a higher developmental level within a content area be required to pass at least one Praxis II test required for the higher level.
- 4) Candidates for initial licensure are required to pass the appropriate content area test for the highest developmental level on the license.

Executive Committee Action: _____

If Indiana students are to achieve high standards, there must be competent, caring, and qualified educators to get them there.